



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 10, 2004

H.R. 4731

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
on July 21, 2004*

SUMMARY

H.R. 4731 would extend the authorization of appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Estuary Program from fiscal year 2005 to 2010. Under current law, \$35 million is authorized to be appropriated each year through 2005, and enacting this legislation would maintain the same authorized annual funding level for subsequent years. Such funding would be used to coordinate federal, state, and local efforts to protect estuaries. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4731 would cost \$112 million over the 2006-2010 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. H.R. 4731 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

For purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2005 and that the amounts authorized will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Estimated outlays are based on historical spending patterns for similar activities. The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4731 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and the environment).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending for the National Estuary Program						
Under Current Law						
Authorization Level ^a	25	35	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	25	29	19	5	1	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	0	35	35	35	35
Estimated Outlays	0	0	14	29	34	35
Spending for the National Estuary Program						
Under H.R. 4731						
Authorization Level ^a	25	35	35	35	35	35
Estimated Outlays	25	29	33	34	35	35

a. The 2004 level is the amount appropriated for that year to EPA to implement the National Estuary Program. The 2005 amount is the level authorized under current law for the program.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4731 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local or tribal governments. State and local governments would benefit from the bill's extension of grants, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration activities for estuaries. Any expenditures made by those governments to satisfy the matching requirements of the grants would be incurred voluntarily.

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